

DEER CREEK AND TULE RIVER AUTHORITY
GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS AND REPORT

ATTACHMENT 9: PAST PERFORMANCE

The Deer Creek and Tule River Authority (Authority) have had limited experiences with grants, particularly over the past 5 years. But, the Authority has completed grant related projects since its inception in 1994. The most notable project completed by the Authority was the Deer Creek Basin Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project. This project was completed in collaboration with the Authority and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, whom provided a grant. Following is a brief summary of this project which continues to operate and function today.

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Deer Creek Basin Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project
Tulare County, California**

In 1995 Authority members embarked on the development of a groundwater recharge facility and water banking program. The Authority entered into a long term right-of-use agreement for 80 acres along Deer Creek owned by one of the member Districts. Using their own staff and equipment, the Authority members transformed the land into recharge basins to capture the abundant Sierra spring runoff. "Recharging groundwater has always been a valuable water management tool for the Authority's member Districts," said Dan Vink, General Manager of the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority.

After the project was completed, birdwatchers from the local chapter of the Audubon Society began using the Deer Creek site for causal bird-watching as well as for annual "birding" events. Excited by the opportunities, the Audubon Society contacted the Authority and together they modified the design of the Complex to increase its potential for wildlife and habitat. The 80 acres were divided into four cells with varying water levels to accommodate the needs of different waterfowl species, including areas for upland habitat to protect the nesting sites from predators.

In 1997 the Authority, was awarded a \$165,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to continue the development of the project resulting in the expansion of the complex to include almost 300 acres. The grant provided for new basin construction, re-vegetation, and educational opportunities to promote the environmental benefits of the groundwater recharge facility. Over 100,000 yards of soil was excavated to create a more natural, wildlife-friendly area. New turnouts were installed from the Friant-Kern Canal as well as new inter-basin turnouts to improve water management. Ponds were created with specific wildlife features such as contoured levees, nesting islands and native vegetation. Since the initial construction over 35,000 acre-feet of water has been recharged at the Deer Creek Complex.

The Deer Creek Complex is considered to be very successful. "It demonstrates the joint effort between agriculture and the environmental community to foster a relationship of cooperation and not conflict," said Vink. The project finished on time and under budget and was primarily completed using Authority Staff and equipment.

Along with the Audubon Society, the Authority has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Waterfowl Association and the Soil Conservation Service. The Deer Creek Complex has received national recognition for promotion of sound water management through groundwater recharge while providing habitat for a variety of native and migratory birds and land species. In 1999 the Authority received a Certificate of Environmental Achievement from the National Awards Council for Environmental Sustainability for the work done on the design phase of the Complex with the National Audubon Society.

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The project continues today to operate and function as a multi-purpose basin, achieving the original goals and objectives.

ENCLOSURES:

- Itemization of Grant Funds for Project
- Project Final Accounting Ledger

NFWF Grant & Financial Reporting Data

Grantee: Deer Creek & Tule River Authority
 Project Name: Deer Creek Waterfowl Enhancement
 Project #: 98-231
 Grant Period: October 1, 1997 to September 30, 2000
 Period Covered: October 1, 1997 to October 1, 2004

| TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES INCURRED TO DATE: | | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Category | | Total NFWF Grant Budget (per category) | Actual Expenses Incurred to Date | Balance left for Future Expenditure by Category | |
| Equipment Rental | | \$95,000 | \$158,064 | (\$63,064) | |
| Contractual Services | | \$20,400 | \$25,669 | (\$5,269) | |
| Materials | | \$28,700 | \$24,545 | \$4,155 | |
| Water Acquisition | | \$20,862 | \$0 | \$20,862 | |
| TOTAL | | \$164,962 | \$208,278 | | |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Balance left for Collection by Category | \$63,064 |
| | \$5,269 |
| | \$0 |
| | \$0 |
| | \$68,333 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Grant Money Left for Expenditure | \$0 |
| | \$0 |
| | \$4,155 |
| | \$20,862 |
| | \$25,017 |

| SERVICES RENDERED BY LTRID - UNPAID | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Category | | Total NFWF Grant Budget (per category) |
| Equipment Rental | | \$125,864 |
| Contractual Services | | \$23,569 |
| Materials | | \$24,545 |
| Water Acquisition | | |
| TOTAL | | \$173,978 |

| OPTION #1 | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| MEMBER ASSESEMENT | | \$68,333 |
| LOWER TULE | | \$31,608.01 |
| PIXLEY | | \$12,523.17 |
| PORTERVILLE | | \$7,049.64 |
| SAUCELITO | | \$7,351.90 |
| TERRA BELLA | | \$5,990.33 |
| STONE CORAL | | \$3,809.94 |

| OPTION #2 | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| MEMBER ASSESEMENT | | \$75,000 |
| LOWER TULE | | \$34,691.89 |
| PIXLEY | | \$13,745.01 |
| PORTERVILLE | | \$7,737.45 |
| SAUCELITO | | \$8,069.19 |
| TERRA BELLA | | \$6,574.79 |
| STONE CORAL | | \$4,181.66 |

| PROJECTED ACCOUNT STATUS DCTRA FACILITY (OPTION #1) | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| | | |
| Balance 4/1/2002 | | (\$39,304) |
| NFWF Grant | | \$164,962 |
| LTRID Payment | | (\$173,978) |
| Member Assesement | | \$68,333 |
| Projected Balance | | \$20,013 |

| PROJECTED ACCOUNT STATUS DCTRA FACILITY (OPTION #2) | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| | | |
| Balance 4/1/2002 | | (\$39,304) |
| NFWF Grant | | \$164,962 |
| LTRID Payment | | (\$173,978) |
| Member Assesement | | \$75,000 |
| Projected Balance | | \$26,680 |

ITEMIZATION OF CHALLENGE FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE
DEER CREEK & TULE RIVER AUTHORITY
FOR THE DEER CREEK WATEFOWL ENHACEMENT PROJECT.

1. Land Acquisition - \$246,887

The DCTRA group purchased the land in May of 1996. The land was purchased from Smallwood Vineyards. A copy of the check in the amount of \$246,887 from DCTRA to Smallwood Vineyards is included as Exhibit "A"

2. Property Rehabilitation - \$47,368

As part of Phase 1 of the Deer Creek project, the DCTRA rehabilitated existing berms and control structures in order to better manage the existing property in a manner more consistent with the goals of the environmental community. The work was done using staff and equipment of the DCTRA member districts. Copies of the invoices to DCTRA by the member districts along with evidence of payment of said invoices is attached as Exhibit "B"

3. Contractual Services - \$25,500

As part of the land acquisition, the DCTRA group incurred significant legal and consulting expenses. The DCTRA used retained council Dooley & Herr for the necessary legal representation. Copies of invoices by Dooley & Herr along with canceled checks representing payment are attached as Exhibit "C"

4. Salaries - \$1,200

The DCTRA group incurred administrative expenses of \$1,200 relative to the land acquisition and the Phase 1 rehabilitation of the existing property. Through internal arrangements, the Lower Tule River Irrigation District manages the DCTRA for a flat fee per month. Secretarial and bookkeeping time is billed on a real time basis by Lower Tule to the DCTRA. Copies of invoices for expended time relative to the Deer Creek & Tule River Authority Operations during the Land Acquisition Phase and the Phase 1 work as billed by Lower Tule to the DCTRA, along with canceled checks representing payment are attached as Exhibit "D" While the total cost of administration etc. during the time period well exceeds \$1,200, it was determined that \$1,200 represents the proportionate time spent of the project relative the balance of administrative activities.